

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-55, 72-137, and 309-319 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 14, 27, 38, 47, 72, 85, 98, 109, 118, 127 and 309 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for pointing and clicking guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

(i) receiving a display of a first interface comprising, at least 1,000 first level search categories arranged in alphabetical order in a single web page, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to no more than 30 second level search categories each which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category, alphabet letters A through Z arranged adjacent said first level search categories, and a scroll bar adjacent said first level search categories for navigating through said first level search categories;

(ii) pointing and clicking on a first level search category;

(iii) receiving a display of a second interface comprising a plurality of said second level search categories corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each of said second level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to no more than 30 third level search categories;

(iv) pointing and clicking on a second level search category;

(v) receiving a display of a third interface comprising a plurality of said third level search categories corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each of said third level search categories is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;

(vi) pointing and clicking on a third level search category; and

(vii) receiving a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to

said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

2 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, further comprising: (i) pointing and clicking on an alphabet letter; (ii) receiving a display of a group of said first level search categories corresponding to said alphabet letter; and (iii) pointing and clicking on a first level search category from said group of said first level search categories.

3 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, further comprising pointing and clicking on said scroll bar to locate a first level search category.

4 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein said second interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said second level search categories.

5 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

6 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein said third interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said third level search categories.

7 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

8 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

9 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 8, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

10 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 9, further comprising pointing and

clicking on said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system.

11 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 8, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

12 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 11, further comprising pointing and clicking on said hide button or icon to hide said return bar.

13 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 1, further comprising using a mouse to point and click through said internet virtual directory system.

14 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for pointing and clicking guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

(i) receiving a display of a first interface comprising, a plurality of first level search categories arranged in alphabetical order in a single web page, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one second level search category which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category, alphabet letters A through Z arranged adjacent said first level search categories, and a scroll bar adjacent said first level search categories for navigating through said first level search categories;

(ii) pointing and clicking on a first level search category;

(iii) receiving a display of a second interface comprising at least one second level search category corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each second level search category is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one third level search category;

(iv) pointing and clicking on a second level search category;

(v) receiving a display of a third interface comprising at least one third level search category corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each third level search category is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;

(vi) pointing and clicking on a third level search category; and
(vii) receiving a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

15 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 14, further comprising: (i) pointing and clicking on an alphabet letter; (ii) receiving a display of a group of said first level search categories corresponding to said alphabet letter; and (iii) pointing and clicking on a first level search category from said group of said first level search categories.

16 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 14, further comprising pointing and clicking on said scroll bar to locate a first level search category.

17 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 14, wherein said second interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said second level search categories.

18 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 14, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

19 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 14, wherein said third interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said third level search categories.

20 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 14, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

21 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 14, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

22 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 21, wherein said return bar comprises a return button

or icon.

23 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 22, further comprising pointing and clicking on said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system.

24 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 21, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

25 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 24, further comprising pointing and clicking on said hide button or icon to hide said return bar.

26 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 14, further comprising using a mouse to point and click through said internet virtual directory system.

27 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for pointing and clicking guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

(i) receiving a display of a first interface comprising, a plurality of first level search categories arranged in alphabetical order in a single web page, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one second level search category which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category, and alphabet letters A through Z arranged adjacent said first level search categories;

(ii) pointing and clicking on an alphabet letter;

(iii) receiving a display of a group of first level search categories corresponding to said alphabet letter;

(iv) pointing and clicking on a first level search category selected from said group of first level search categories;

(v) receiving a display of a second interface comprising at least one second level search category corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each second level search category is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one third level search

category;

- (vi) pointing and clicking on a second level search category;
- (vii) receiving a display of a third interface comprising at least one third level search category corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each third level search category is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;
- (viii) pointing and clicking on a third level search category; and
- (ix) receiving a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

28 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 27, wherein said second interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said second level search categories.

29 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 27, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

30 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 27, wherein said third interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said third level search categories.

31 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 27, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

32 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 27, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

33 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 32, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

34 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 33, further comprising pointing and clicking on said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system.

35 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 32, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

36 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 35, further comprising pointing and clicking on said hide button or icon to hide said return bar.

37 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 27, further comprising using a mouse to point and click through said internet virtual directory system.

38 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for pointing and clicking guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

(i) receiving a display of a first interface comprising, a plurality of first level search categories arranged in a single web page, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one second level search category which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category, and a scroll bar adjacent said first level search categories for navigating through said first level search categories;

(ii) pointing and clicking on said scroll bar to locate a first level search category;

(iii) pointing and clicking on said first level search category;

(iv) receiving a display of a second interface comprising at least one second level search category corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each second level search category is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one third level search category;

(v) pointing and clicking on a second level search category;

(vi) receiving a display of a third interface comprising at least one third level search category corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each third level search category is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an

internet web site;

(vii) pointing and clicking on a third level search category; and
(viii) receiving a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

39 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 38, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

40 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 38, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

41 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 38, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

42 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 41, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

43 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 42, further comprising pointing and clicking on said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system.

44 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 41, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

45 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 44, further comprising pointing and clicking on said hide button or icon to hide said return bar.

46 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 38, further comprising using a mouse to point and click through said internet virtual directory system.

47 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for pointing and clicking guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

- (i) receiving a display of a first interface comprising a plurality of first level search categories, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one second level search category which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category;
- (ii) pointing and clicking on a first level search category;
- (iii) receiving a display of a second interface comprising at least one second level search category corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each second level search category is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one third level search category;
- (iv) pointing and clicking on a second level search category;
- (v) receiving a display of a third interface comprising at least one third level search category corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each third level search category is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;
- (vi) pointing and clicking on a third level search category; and
- (vii) receiving a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

48 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 47, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

49 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 47, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

50 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 47, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

51 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 50, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

52 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 51, further comprising pointing and clicking on said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system.

53 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 50, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

54 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 53, further comprising pointing and clicking on said hide button or icon to hide said return bar.

55 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 47, further comprising using a mouse to point and click through said internet virtual directory system.

56-71 (CANCELLED):

72 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for providing guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

(i) transmitting a display of a first interface comprising, at least 1,000 first level search categories arranged in alphabetical order in a single web page, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to no more than 30 second level search categories each which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category, alphabet letters A through Z arranged adjacent said first level search categories, and a scroll bar adjacent said first level search categories for navigating through said first level search categories;

- (ii) receiving a click command to select a first level search category;
- (iii) transmitting a display of a second interface comprising a plurality of said

second level search categories corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each of said second level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to no more than 30 third level search categories;

- (iv) receiving a click command to select a second level search category;
- (v) transmitting a display of a third interface comprising a plurality of said third level search categories corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each of said third level search categories is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;
- (vi) receiving a click command to select a third level search category; and
- (vii) transmitting a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

73 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 72, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command to select an alphabet letter; (ii) transmitting a display of a group of said first level search categories corresponding to said alphabet letter; and (iii) receiving a click command to select a first level search category from said group of said first level search categories.

74 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 72, further comprising receiving a click command to control said scroll bar to locate a first level search category.

75 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 72, wherein said second interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said second level search categories.

76 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 72, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

77 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 72, wherein said third interface comprises said

alphabet letters arranged adjacent said third level search categories.

78 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 72, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

79 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 72, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

80 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 79, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

81 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 80, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system; and (ii) transmitting a display of said third interface.

82 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 79, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

83 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 82, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said hide button or icon to hide said return bar; and (ii) transmitting a display of said web page without said return bar.

84 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 72, further comprising receiving said click commands from a mouse.

85 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for providing guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

(i) transmitting a display of a first interface comprising, a plurality of first level search categories arranged in alphabetical order in a single web page, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one second level search category which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first

level search category, alphabet letters A through Z arranged adjacent said first level search categories, and a scroll bar adjacent said first level search categories for navigating through said first level search categories;

- (ii) receiving a click command to select a first level search category;
- (iii) transmitting a display of a second interface comprising at least one second level search category corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each second level search category is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one third level search category;
- (iv) receiving a click command to select a second level search category;
- (v) transmitting a display of a third interface comprising at least one third level search category corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each third level search category is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;
- (vi) receiving a click command to select a third level search category; and
- (vii) transmitting a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

86 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 85, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command to select an alphabet letter; (ii) transmitting a display of a group of said first level search categories corresponding to said alphabet letter; and (iii) receiving a click command to select a first level search category from said group of said first level search categories.

87 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 85, further comprising receiving a click command to control said scroll bar to locate a first level search category.

88 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 85, wherein said second interface comprises said

alphabet letters arranged adjacent said second level search categories.

89 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 85, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

90 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 85, wherein said third interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said third level search categories.

91 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 85, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

92 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 85, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

93 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 92, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

94 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 93, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system; and (ii) transmitting a display of said third interface.

95 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 92, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

96 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 95, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said hide button or icon to hide said return bar; and (ii) transmitting a display of said web page without said return bar.

97 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 85, further comprising receiving said click commands from a mouse.

98 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for providing guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating

to a search, comprising:

(i) transmitting a display of a first interface comprising, a plurality of first level search categories arranged in alphabetical order in a single web page, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one second level search category which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category, and alphabet letters A through Z arranged adjacent said first level search categories;

(ii) receiving a click command to select an alphabet letter;

(iii) transmitting a display of a group of first level search categories corresponding to said alphabet letter;

(iv) receiving a click command to select a first level search category selected from said group of first level search categories;

(v) transmitting a display of a second interface comprising at least one second level search category corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each second level search category is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one third level search category;

(vi) receiving a click command to select a second level search category;

(vii) transmitting a display of a third interface comprising at least one third level search category corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each third level search category is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;

(viii) receiving a click command to select a third level search category; and

(ix) transmitting a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

99 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 98, wherein said second interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said second level search categories.

100 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 98, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

101 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 98, wherein said third interface comprises said alphabet letters arranged adjacent said third level search categories.

102 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 98, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

103 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 98, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

104 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 103, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

105 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 104, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system; and (ii) transmitting a display of said third interface.

106 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 103, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

107 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 106, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said hide button or icon to hide said return bar; and (ii) transmitting a display of said web page without said return bar.

108 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 98, further comprising receiving said click commands from a mouse.

109 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for providing guiding a user through at least

three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

- (i) transmitting a display of a first interface comprising, a plurality of first level search categories arranged in a single web page, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one second level search category which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category, and a scroll bar adjacent said first level search categories for navigating through said first level search categories;
- (ii) receiving a click command to control said scroll bar to locate a first level search category;
- (iii) receiving a click command to select said first level search category;
- (iv) transmitting a display of a second interface comprising at least one second level search category corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each second level search category is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one third level search category;
- (v) receiving a click command to select a second level search category;
- (vi) transmitting a display of a third interface comprising at least one third level search category corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each third level search category is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;
- (vii) receiving a click command to select a third level search category; and
- (viii) transmitting a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

110 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 109, wherein said first level search category is

displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

111 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 109, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

112 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 109, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

113 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 112, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

114 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 113, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system; and (ii) transmitting a display of said third interface.

115 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 112, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

116 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 115, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said hide button or icon to hide said return bar; and (ii) transmitting a display of said web page without said return bar.

117 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 109, further comprising receiving said click commands from a mouse.

118 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for providing guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising:

(i) transmitting a display of a first interface comprising a plurality of first level search categories, wherein each of said first level search categories is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one second level search category which specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to a linked first level search category;

(ii) receiving a click command to select a first level search category;
(iii) transmitting a display of a second interface comprising at least one second level search category corresponding to said first level search category, wherein each second level search category is configured for pointing and clicking to link to at least one third level search category;
(iv) receiving a click command to select a second level search category;
(v) transmitting a display of a third interface comprising at least one third level search category corresponding to said second level search category, wherein each third level search category is a uniform research locator configured for pointing and clicking to link to an internet web site;
(vi) receiving a click command to select a third level search category; and
(vii) transmitting a display of a web page of said internet web site corresponding to said third level search category,

wherein the categories in each of the first, second and third levels are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

119 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 118, wherein said first level search category is displayed in said second interface adjacent said second level search categories.

120 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 118, wherein a search path is displayed in said third interface adjacent said third level search categories.

121 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 118, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

122 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 121, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

123 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 122, further comprising: (i) receiving

a click command from said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system; and (ii) transmitting a display of said third interface.

124 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 121, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

125 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 124, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said hide button or icon to hide said return bar; and (ii) transmitting a display of said web page without said return bar.

126 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 118, further comprising receiving said click commands from a mouse.

127 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for providing guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating to a search, comprising: (i) transmitting a first display of at least one interface comprising a plurality of first search categories; (ii) receiving a click command to select a first search category; (iii) transmitting a second display of at least one interface comprising a plurality of second search categories each specifying a narrower subject matter subcategory related to the selected first search category; (iv) receiving a click command to select a second search category; and (v) transmitting a display of a web page of an internet web site corresponding to the second search category, wherein each of the first and second search categories are pre-selected and uploaded by a service provider of the internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

128 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 127, wherein said interface further comprises alphabet letters A through Z arranged adjacent said search categories.

129 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 128, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command to select an alphabet letter; (ii) transmitting a display of a group of search categories

corresponding to said alphabet letter; and (iii) receiving a click command to select a search category from said group of search categories.

130 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 127, wherein said interface further comprises a scroll bar adjacent said search categories for navigating through said search categories.

131 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 130, further comprising receiving a click command to control said scroll bar to locate a search category.

132 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 127, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

133 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 132, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

134 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 133, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system; and (ii) transmitting a display of said interface.

135 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 132, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

136 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 135, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said hide button or icon to hide said return bar; and (ii) transmitting a display of said web page without said return bar.

137 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 127, further comprising receiving said click command from a mouse.

138-308 (CANCELLED):

309 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for providing guiding a user through at least three interface levels of an internet virtual directory system to a desired internet web site relating

to a search, comprising: (i) transmitting a display of a first interface and a second interface, wherein each of the first and second interfaces comprises a plurality of search categories and is linked to each other in such a way that a first search category is linked to at least a second search category that specifies a narrower subject matter subcategory related to the first search category; (ii) receiving a click command to select the first search category for each of the first and second interfaces; and (iii) transmitting a display of a web page of an internet web site corresponding to a selected second search category, wherein the search categories for each of the first and second interfaces are preselected and uploaded by a service provider of said internet virtual directory system, and the categories of at least the second level are pre-selected based on the user's expected search results relating to the selected first level search category and uploaded by the service provider.

310 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 309, wherein each of the first and second interfaces further comprises alphabet letters A through Z arranged adjacent the search categories of each of the first and second interfaces.

311 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 310, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command to select an alphabet letter; (ii) transmitting a display of a group of search categories corresponding to said alphabet letter; and (iii) receiving a click command to select a search category from said group of search categories.

312 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 309, wherein each of the first and second interfaces further comprises a scroll bar adjacent said search categories for navigating through said search categories.

313 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 312, further comprising receiving a click command to control said scroll bar to locate a search category.

314 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 309, wherein a return bar is displayed adjacent said web page of said internet web site.

Application No. 09/781,901
Amendment dated May 15, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of February 17, 2006

Docket No. 4150-4000US1

315 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 314, wherein said return bar comprises a return button or icon.

316 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 315, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said return button or icon to return to said internet virtual directory system; and (ii) transmitting a display of said interface.

317 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 314, wherein said return bar includes a hide button or icon for hiding said return bar.

318 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 317, further comprising: (i) receiving a click command from said hide button or icon to hide said return bar; and (ii) transmitting a display of said web page without said return bar.

319 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 309, further comprising receiving said click command from a mouse.